

## Our Foreign Letter.

DRONNING LOUISA'S BORNE-HOSPITAL.  
(Queen Louisa's Children's Hospital in Copenhagen.)

THE foundation-stone of this Hospital was laid by the Queen herself, July 9th, 1877. Below it is a silver tablet with the inscription:—"Of this Hospital, erected by voluntary contributions of the citizens, the foundation-stone was laid by Denmark's Queen Louisa, the 9th July, 1877, in the presence of His Majesty King Christian IX. *Nos remedia, tu salutem.*"

The Hospital was built after plans by architect Ludwig Fenger. Before beginning the work, Mr. Fenger travelled in various parts of the Continent so as to become thoroughly acquainted with the best foreign Hospitals. From the Children's Hospitals in Zurich and Basle, he introduced a system of open galleries (or balconies) opening on to the wards. These galleries are screened from the draught by tall glass windows, and sail-cloth can be drawn across at will. The beds of the patients are wheeled out here whenever the weather allows, and the convalescents play about, or watch the traffic. The small wan figures in their sombre grey dressing-gowns are a feature of constant interest to the sympathetic Danes.

The ground on which the Hospital stands is surrounded by streets on every side. The principal one is called "Fariwagsgade," that is, "Drive-slowly-street." As two important Hospitals, the "Dronning Louisa" and "Kommune" Hospitals, stand here, the name is appropriate.

The main building of the "Dronning Louisa" stands between a garden and a court-yard. The mortuary and dissecting chamber stand at the end of the garden. In the court-yard are two buildings—the laboratory and wards for infectious diseases, and a receiving-house in which there is also a laundry, store-room, and Nurses' rooms. The main building contains three stories, beside basement and loft. The broad central staircase cuts each storey into two similar halves. Long corridors are avoided, the larger wards stretching right across the building, and communicating by short passages with the galleries or balconies mentioned before. By this arrangement, the Hospital has six divisions of equal proportions. Each of these can be completely isolated at a moment's notice. Five of these divisions are given up to wards. The sixth contains the operating-room, the first physician's rooms, the Matron's rooms, and a small office or waiting-room. In the last, we waited for the "Forstanderinde" (Matron), passing the time by watching a long row of perambulators drawn up in rank and file under a shed. These were waiting for their little owners, for it was between 10 and 11 a.m., that is, "visiting hour" at the "Clinic." We had not waited long when Fru Drewson, the Matron, appeared, and at once kindly consented to show us over the Hospital.

The first thing we had our attention called to was a small bath-room next to the waiting-room. It was here that new arrivals were made fit for the wards, and dressed in the Hospital garments. They were then wrapped in thick flannel dressing-gowns (which we saw hanging ready), and carried up to the wards.

Then Mrs. Drewsen showed us her bright and spacious apartment, and after that we saw the opera-

tion room. This was very large. It had four tall windows, two on either side, so that they faced each other. A Nurse was there in a big apron and blue print dress. She appeared to be busily engaged in cleaning things that were already spotlessly clean. We were told that the regular operation days were Wednesday and Saturday, but that, of course, many exceptions were necessary.

We now entered a ward. It was the same size as the room we had left, and had four windows arranged in exactly in the same way. There were eight beds, two stoves, a big round table in the middle, and a lovely dado running all round the room, painted in oils with every kind of beast and fowl. It was a delightful zoological exhibition to us. What must it have been to the little patients? The spring sunshine streamed in at the window and made the ward look very cheerful. Most of the children were asleep, but one little maiden of seven sat bolt upright, playing very gravely, with an expression of aged sagacity on her face. The Matron spoke to her, and she beamed and brightened in a flash.

The hospital-darling, aged six months, was sulky. He lay and glared at us, open-eyed and motionless. "Elith" is a splendid-looking fellow, chubby, sturdy, and rosy. Eczema at the back of his head did not seem to disturb his general health. Fru Drewsen took him in her arms, and he crowed and cooed with joy, rubbing himself against her like a little puppy, and plainly declaring, in his fashion, "This is what I wanted."

To the right we left some small isolation wards for cases that are ordered "extreme quiet," and found two corresponding rooms on the left hand side. One was a bath-room; in another, a Nurse, specially told off for this duty, was occupied in filling milk-bottles for the sterilizing oven. The bottles were differently coloured, each colour notifying a degree of dilution. The milk is filled in on arrival, and placed in the oven, where its temperature is raised to 100 degrees Reaumur.

The Hospital is surrounded by houses, but on one side one *does* catch a glimpse of one of the numerous lakes and some swans on it. These lakes are the great attraction of Copenhagen. As we stood on the gallery enjoying this small amount of silver beauty, a Nurse came out and began to lay a miniature luncheon-table in the open air. This was for some little convalescents. A screen was placed round the table, and on it, I observed, a large Mr. Punch was fastened, a delightful being with moveable limbs. The convalescents' luncheon promised fair to be an open-air *fête*.

A large reservoir in the basement supplies the pipes with hot water, but the latter is only used for washing and cooking purposes. The wards are heated by stoves; the argument in favour of this arrangement being, that it is thus only possible to give each room a certain desired temperature, higher or lower, as the case may be. Though gas is used in all domestic offices, basement, and passages, only candles are used in the wards.

The upper stories are similar in all respects to the lower, only that the space occupied below by operation room and offices is here devoted to wards. Wards are four metres high (one meter = one yard three inches) and 700 cubic feet of air are calculated to every bed.

The Nurses occupy the attics, each Nurse having a room of her own.

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